986/15

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OFFICE OF TRANSPORTATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

April 14, 1986

GRAIN TRANSPORTATION SITUATION

BMWE Threatens to Escalate Picketing Nationwide

The President of the International Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees (BMWE) said members will picket the facilities of selected railroads around the Nation to bring attention to the Union's fight against Guilford Transportation Industries (GTI). The Union struck the GTI's Maine Central Railroad March 3. Union officials at a press conference said that other railroads were offering "material, personal, and financial" aid to GTI. That, the Union said constitutes a "covert mutual aid pact" among the Nation's railroads. The Union has filed a suit over the pact charging that it violates the Railway Labor Act.

CSX-ACBL Merger

A Federal court of appeals in Cincinnati has denied a rehearing request by Crounse Corporation and several barge companies concerning the court of appeal panel's decision to uphold the merger of CSX Corporation and the American Commercial Barge Lines. The petition was denied, according to the court, because issues raised by barge operators and trade groups led by Crounse were fully considered in its earlier decision. Any further action by opponents of the Interstate Commerce Commission's order on the merger will more than likely be before the U.S. Supreme Court.

ILA, Gulf Talks

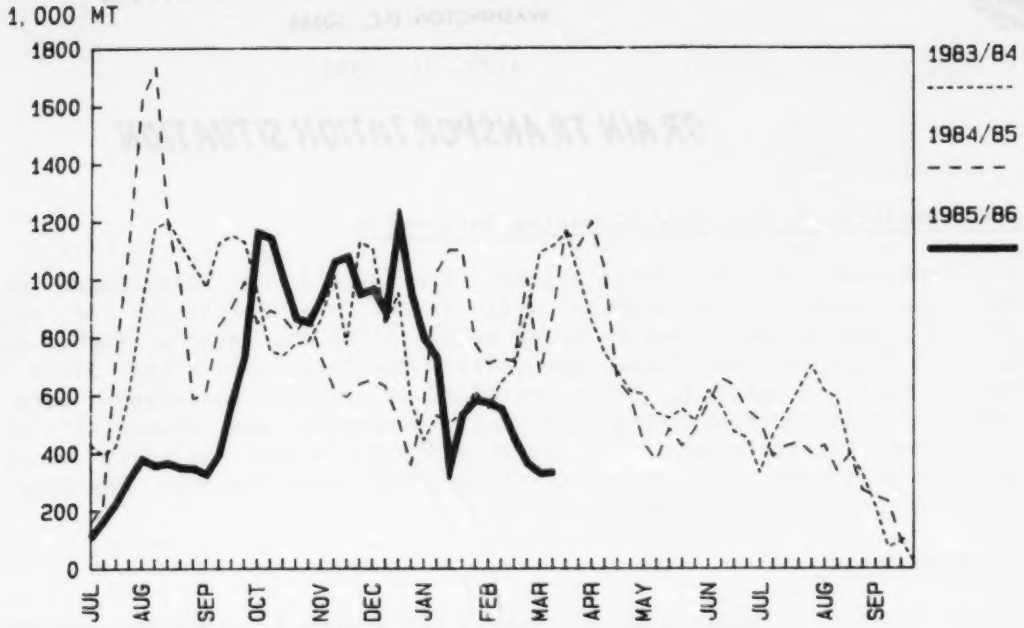
Contract talks between the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) and a group representing longshore employers in the West Gulf will resume April 14 in Houston. Officials of the Union's South Atlantic and Gulf District and the West Gulf Maritime Association representing management have already held negotiating sessions on March 11 and 18. At the latter meeting revisions on wages, benefits, and work rules were discussed. The ILA master contract is scheduled to expire September 30, 1986.

River Situation

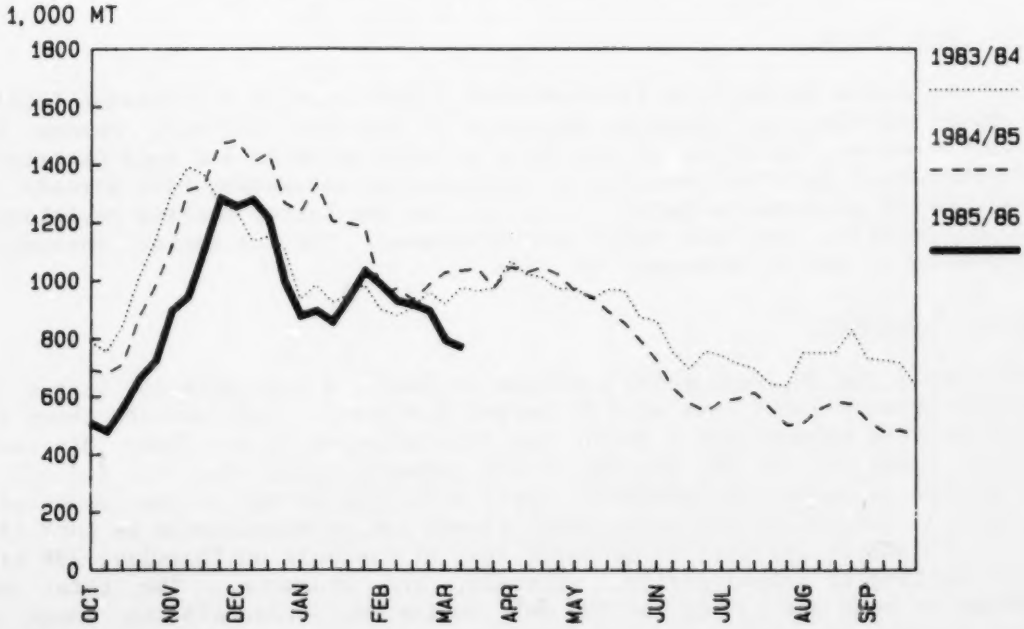
At Locks & Dam 26, during the previous 24 hours, 9 tows with 66 barges have passed upbound and 7 tows with 81 barges downbound. This morning there are 2 tows waiting upbound and 1 down. Due to high water in the Upper Mississippi River, Locks 11, 12, 13, 16, and 17 are closed. Locks 11, 12 and 13 are scheduled to reopen by Wednesday (April 16), Lock 16 and 17 are expected to reopen by the end of the week. Also closed due to maintenance is Lock 18 on April 23 and 24 and Lock 25 on April 16. At the Gulf on Thursday, 798 barges were waiting to unload grains, oilseeds, and products. The total empty barges on hand was 1,010. At the Gulf in the New Orleans/Baton Rouge area last Friday, 7 vessels were reported loading grain, while 9 waited. In the Columbia River Basin, also on Friday, 4 vessels were at berth being loaded while 4 waited.

A 108.12:

CORN SALES
4-WEEK MOVING AVERAGE
1983/84, 1984/85 AND 1985/86



CORN EXPORTS
4-WEEK MOVING AVERAGE
1983/84, 1984/85 AND 1985/86



FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE/USDA

OFFICE OF TRANSPORTATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

April 14, 1986

GRAIN TRANSPORTATION

WEEK ENDED	1986	COMPARABLE WEEK 1985
RAIL CARLOADINGS		
Mar 15	21,900	24,836
Mar 22	20,596	23,166
Mar 29	18,073	22,349
Apr 5	19,213	20,577
Calendar Year to Date	315,674	334,556*
BARGE LOADINGS (1,000 Bushels)		
Mar 16	21,629	32,866
Mar 23	21,255	40,345
Mar 30	N/A	N/A
Apr 6	N/A	N/A
Calendar Year to Date	293,910	386,811
INSPECTIONS FOR EXPORT (1,000 Bushels)		
Mar 13	57,647	68,063
Mar 20	62,956	74,454
Mar 27	66,292	75,306
Apr 3	39,102	73,250
Calendar Year to Date	907,871	1,091,935

*Revised

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AVERAGE GRAIN PRICES ($ Per Bushel)

	1986			1985		
	WHEAT	CORN 1/	SOYBEANS 2/	WHEAT	CORN 1/	SOYBEANS 2/
Feb 28	3.32	2.44	5.29	3.68	2.76	5.71
Mar 7	3.37	2.38	5.35	3.67	2.82	5.79
Mar 14	3.34	2.44	5.39	3.65	2.85	5.87
Mar 21	3.38	2.47	5.38	3.66	2.86	6.01
Mar 28	3.37	2.49	5.35	3.64	2.87	6.04

(Wheat-#1 HRW - ORD., Kansas City; Corn #2 Yellow, Chicago; SB-#1 Yellow, Chicago)

1/ Bought to arrive 15 days.
2/ Bought to arrive 30 days.

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MAJOR EXPORT SALES*
(1,000 Metric Tons)

WEEK ENDED		1986			1985		
		WHEAT	CORN	SOYBEANS	WHEAT	CORN	SOYBEANS
Mar	6	4,744	3,821	4,349	3,573	7,569	2,471
Mar	13	4,708	3,539	4,032	3,688	7,908	2,364
Mar	20	4,469	3,105	3,762	3,878	8,375	2,374
Mar	27	4,400	2,796	3,337	3,794	8,354	2,307
Apr	3	4,456	2,598	3,257	3,665	8,167	2,179

*Unshipped Balances-Current & Next Marketing Year

GULF COAST OCEAN GRAIN VESSELS

		IN PORT	LOADED 7 DAYS	DUE NEXT 10 DAYS	IN PORT	LOADED 7 DAYS	DUE NEXT 10 DAYS
Mar	14	34	44	50	37	57	79
Mar	21	36	39	46	45	49	86
Mar	28	30	44	40	37	54	67
Apr	4	29	35	37	39	40	76
Apr	11	26	37	41	33	50	78

BOX AND COVERED HOPPER CAR OWNERSHIP
(1,000 Cars)

		RAILROADS 40'ND BOX	RAILROADS COVERED HOPPER**	PRIVATE COVERED HOPPER**	RAILROADS 40'ND BOX	RAILROADS COVERED HOPPER**	PRIVATE COVERED HOPPER**
Dec	1	4.4	123.8	115.5	7.2	123.3	114.2
Jan	1	4.3	123.5	115.5	6.8	123.5	114.7
Feb	1	4.3	123.5	115.4	6.3	123.1	114.9
Mar	1	4.2	122.8	114.6	6.0	123.3	114.5
Apr	1	4.0	122.6	113.1	5.6	123.4	115.2

**Jumbo Covered Hoppers Only

OCEAN FREIGHT RATES*
(Dollars/Ton - Basis Vessel Size/Ton)

U.S. Loading Port	Destination	Estimated Freight Rates	Dates of Movement
Gulf	Japan	$10.50-$9.50(48.5M-52M)	Apr-May
Gulf	Rotterdam/Antwerp Hamburg	$6.25-$5.75(50M-75M)	April
Pacific Northwest	South Korea	$11.00(25M)	April
Pacific Northwest	Philippines	$14.00-$13.25(25M-50M)	April
Great Lakes	Algeria	$25.00-$20.00(15M-20M)	Apr-May
Great Lakes	Rotterdam/Antwerp Hamburg	$17.50-$14.50(18M-18.5M)	April
Gulf	Mexico (EC)	$6.00-$5.00(20M-22M)	April
Great Lakes	Mexico	$27.00(14M)	Apr-May
Atlantic	Portugal	$8.00(21M)	April

*These ocean fixtures are based on full ship charters.

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This report is prepared by Bill Dunton & Martha Bearer, Traffic Management Specialists, Domestic Division, Office of Transportation, 202/447-6793.

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OFFICE OF TRANSPORTATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

April 21, 1986

GRAIN TRANSPORTATION SITUATION

Ship Charter Rates At Lowest Point In Ten Years. Rates for chartering bulk ocean carriers plummeted in the last couple of weeks for service on the Gulf-Continent route on a 50,000 to 55,000 metric ton spot cargo market are being booked at $5.50 per ton. Other cargos from the Gulf to Japan were being booked at $9.50 per ton. Panamax sized vessels were being booked to the Continent at $6.00 per ton and to Japan for $10.50 per ton. The low rates are a product of too many vessels for the limited amount of tonnage available.

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MAY 5 1986
U.S. GOVT. PUBLIC DEPOSITORY ITEM

West Gulf Management Seek Concessions From ILA. The West Gulf Maritime Association (WGMA) and representatives of the South Atlantic and Gulf District of the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) are presently holding negotiations without waiting for ILA President, Thomas Gleason, to work out a master contract with North Atlantic Employers. WGMA represents waterfront employers in Texas ports and Lake Charles, Louisiana. ILA representatives from Gulf and South Atlantic ports are attending the West Gulf talks but their counterparts from those port areas are not in attendance. Management groups from the Gulf and South Atlantic ports have not committed themselves to following any patterns set by the West Gulf negotiations. Although details of the negotiations between the WGMA and the ILA have not been made public, word is out that some concessions on local issues will be made by the union.

Agricultural Transportation Conference. Plans are being finalized for the Agricultural Transportation Conference sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, set for May 13 thru 15 in St. Louis, Missouri. Some of the more important topics to be discussed are rail deregulation and its impact on agriculture, motor carrier issues important to agriculture, highway transportation policy, and waterway issues. Please contact Ronald P. Vail, Office of Transportation, Room 1405 Auditors Building, Washington, D.C. 20250 or telephone him at (202) 447-6793.

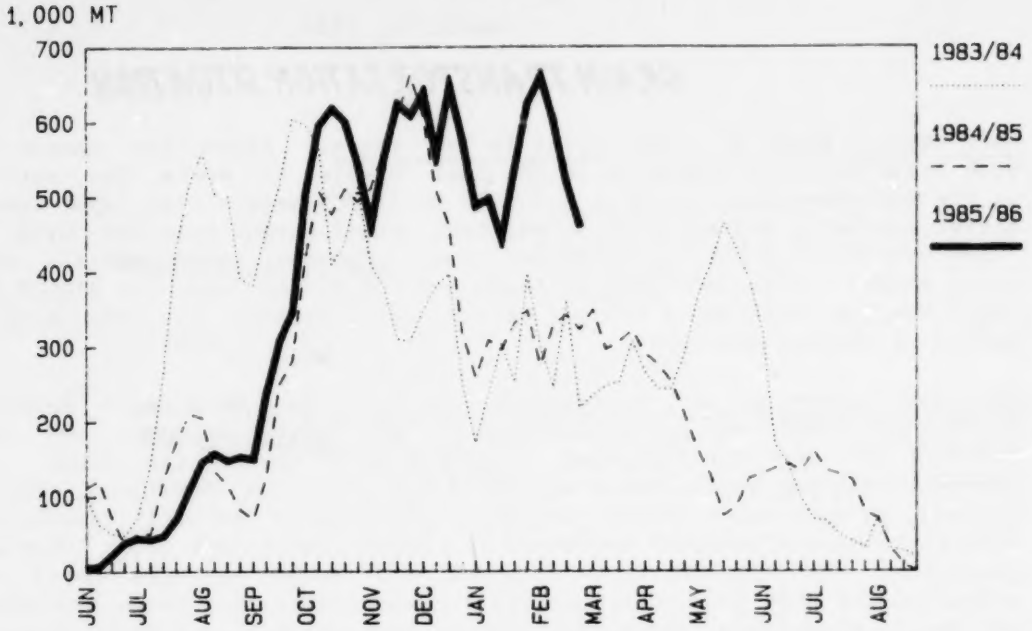
Locomotive Engineers To Resume Negotiations. The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and the National Railway Labor Conference have set May 1st to resume negotiations. The 2-year labor dispute will continue with the arbitration panel meeting to try to come to an agreement by the 20 calendar day deadline set by the arbitration agreement.

River Situation. At Locks & Dam 26, during the previous 24 hours, 14 tows with 180 barges have passed upbound and 7 tows with 67 barges downbound. This morning there are 5 tows waiting upbound and 2 down. At the Gulf on Thursday, 908 barges were waiting to unload grains, oilseeds, and products. The total empty barges on hand was 1,109. At the Gulf in the New Orleans/Baton Rouge area last Friday, 7 vessels were reported loading grain, while 8 waited. In the Columbia River Basin, also on Friday, 3 vessels were at berth being loaded while 4 waited.

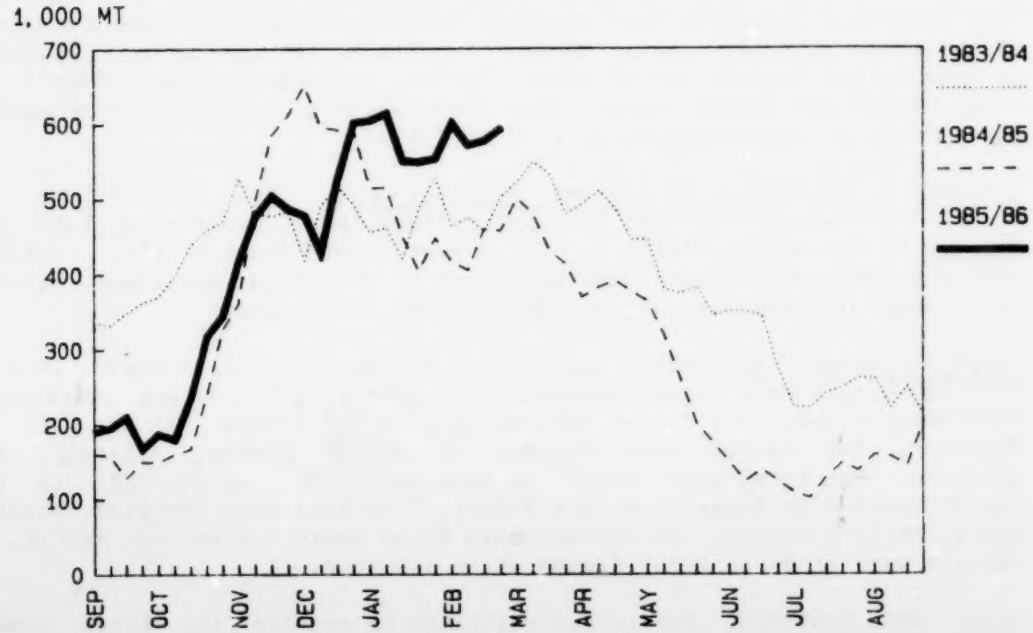
NOTE: BARGE LOADINGS. Due to our inability to receive the barge count; we will be unable to publish these figures until further notice.

A 108.12:

SOYBEAN SALES
4-WEEK MOVING AVERAGE
1983/84, 1984/85 AND 1985/86



SOYBEAN EXPORTS
4-WEEK MOVING AVERAGE
1983/84, 1984/85 AND 1985/86



FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE/USDA

OFFICE OF TRANSPORTATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

April 21, 1986

GRAIN TRANSPORTATION

WEEK ENDED	1986	COMPARABLE WEEK 1985
RAIL CARLOADINGS		
Mar 22	20,605*	23,159*
Mar 29	18,073	22,349
Apr 5	19,213	20,577
Apr 12	17,725	21,070
Calendar Year to Date	334,363*	355,626
*Revised		
BARGE LOADINGS (1,000 Bushels)		
Mar 23	21,255	40,345
Mar 30	N/A	N/A
Apr 6	N/A	N/A
Apr 13	N/A	N/A
Calendar Year to Date	293,910	386,811
INSPECTIONS FOR EXPORT (1,000 Bushels)		
Mar 20	62,956	74,454
Mar 27	66,292	75,306
Apr 3	39,102	73,250
Apr 10	55,938	75,993
Calendar Year to Date	963,809	1,167,928

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AVERAGE GRAIN PRICES ($ Per Bushel)

	1986			1985		
	WHEAT	CORN 1/	SOYBEANS 2/	WHEAT	CORN 1/	SOYBEANS 2/
Mar 7	3.37	2.38	5.35	3.67	2.82	5.79
Mar 14	3.34	2.44	5.39	3.65	2.85	5.87
Mar 21	3.38	2.47	5.38	3.66	2.86	6.01
Mar 28	3.37	2.49	5.35	3.64	2.87	6.04
Apr 4	3.40	2.50	5.35	3.70	2.91	6.02

(Wheat-#1 HRW - ORD., Kansas City; Corn #2 Yellow, Chicago; SB-#1 Yellow, Chicago)

1/ Bought to arrive 15 days.
2/ Bought to arrive 30 days.

MAJOR EXPORT SALES*
(1,000 Metric Tons)

WEEK ENDED		1986			1985		
		WHEAT	CORN	SOYBEANS	WHEAT	CORN	SOYBEANS
Mar	13	4,708	3,539	4,032	3,688	7,908	2,364
Mar	20	4,469	3,105	3,762	3,878	8,375	2,374
Mar	27	4,400	2,796	3,337	3,794	8,354	2,307
Apr	3	4,456	2,598	3,257	3,665	8,167	2,179
Apr	10	4,422	2,467	3,020	3,370	7,937	1,960

*Unshipped Balances-Current & Next Marketing Year

GULF COAST OCEAN GRAIN VESSELS

		IN PORT	LOADED 7 DAYS	DUE NEXT 10 DAYS	IN PORT	LOADED 7 DAYS	DUE NEXT 10 DAYS
Mar	21	36	39	46	45	49	86
Mar	28	30	44	40	37	54	67
Apr	4	29	35	37	39	40	76
Apr	11	26	37	41	33	50	78
Apr	18	27	40	33	25	50	69

BOX AND COVERED HOPPER CAR OWNERSHIP
(1,000 Cars)

		RAILROADS 40'ND BOX	RAILROADS COVERED HOPPER**	PRIVATE COVERED HOPPER**	RAILROADS 40'ND BOX	RAILROADS COVERED HOPPER**	PRIVATE COVERED HOPPER**
Dec	1	4.4	123.8	115.5	7.2	123.3	114.2
Jan	1	4.3	123.5	115.5	6.8	123.5	114.7
Feb	1	4.3	123.5	115.4	6.3	123.1	114.9
Mar	1	4.2	122.8	114.6	6.0	123.3	114.5
Apr	1	4.0	122.6	113.1	5.6	123.4	115.2

**Jumbo Covered Hoppers Only

OCEAN FREIGHT RATES*
(Dollars/Ton - Basis Vessel Size/Ton)

U.S. Loading Port	Destination	Estimated Freight Rates	Dates of Movement
Gulf	Japan	$18.00-$9.50(19M-52M)	Apr-May
Gulf	Rotterdam/Antwerp Hamburg	$6.25-$5.50(55M-75M)	April
Pacific Northwest	Philippines	$14.00-$13.25(25M-50M)	April
Great Lakes	Algeria	$25.00-$20.00(15M-20M)	Apr-May
Great Lakes	Rotterdam/Antwerp Hamburg	$17.50-$14.50(18M-18.5M)	April
Gulf	Mexico (EC)	$6.00-$5.00(20M-22M)	April
Great Lakes	Mexico	$27.00(14M)	Apr-May
Gulf	Algeria	$15.00-$13.50(15M-18.7M)	April
Pacific Northwest	Japan	$12.65-$12.00(20M)	April
Great Lakes	Japan	$21.15-$20.75(17M-25M) Top-Off $14.00-$13.75	May

*These ocean fixtures are based on full ship charters.

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This report is prepared by Bill Dunton & Martha Bearer, Traffic Management Specialists, Domestic Division, Office of Transportation, 202/447-6793.

986/17

Grain Transportation Situation

PUBLIC LIBRARY
MAY 15 1986

United States Department of Agriculture
Office of Transportation
Washington, D.C. 20250
April 28, 1986

U. S. GOVT. PUBS.
DEPOSITORY

Private Hopper Cars. The Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) has given the Nation's railroads permission to bargain collectively with a group of 54 grain shippers and car suppliers on alleged restrictions by the carriers against use of privately-owned covered hopper cars. The Commission did not mandate negotiations, but said they would not violate the anti-trust laws if talks take place. The car owners have sought collective talks in the past but the railroads have opposed the idea. Granting anti-trust immunity for negotiations is the most recent development in a dispute, involving the Shippers Committee OT-5, that has been in place at the ICC since 1981.

Mexico to Increase Grain Imports. Mexico will increase its imports of corn, wheat, and sorghum from 4.2 million metric tons in 1985 to an estimated 5.1 million metric tons this year to take advantage of low international prices. An article appearing in the Mexican newspaper, El Financiero, said conditions in the world grain market, with excessive production, low prices, and a significant reduction in exports by basic grain producing countries, are similar to market conditions in 1982. Mexico will increase its basic grain imports by 21.4 percent.

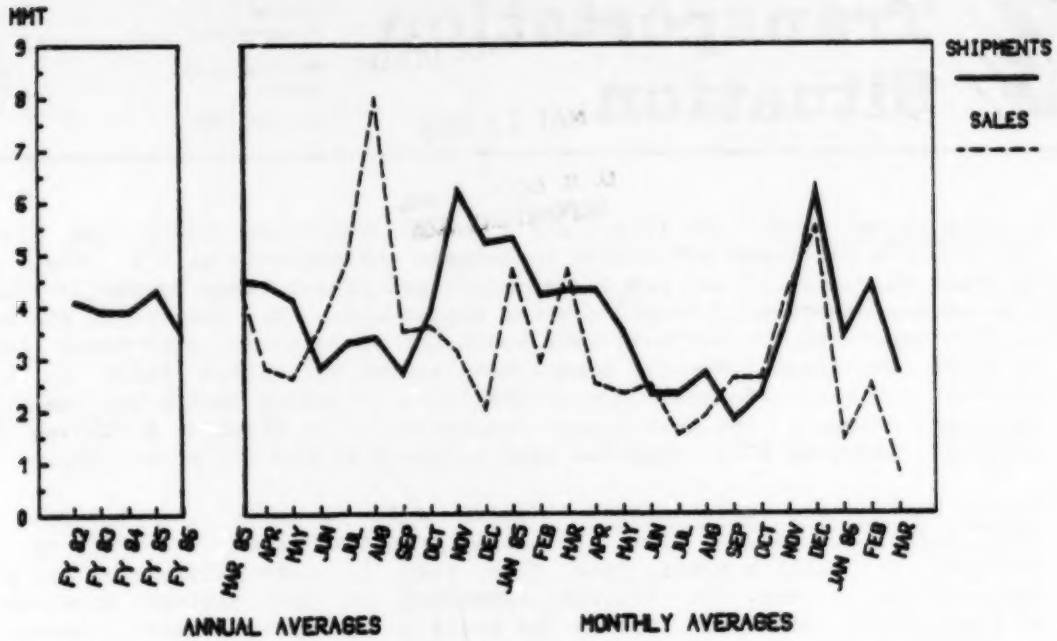
Guilford Rail Strike. Last Friday, two more unions joined the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees (BMWE) in its strike against the Maine Central, Boston & Maine, Delaware & Hudson, and the Portland Terminal, all operated by Guilford Transportation Industries, Inc. The United Transportation Union and the Brotherhood of Railway and Airline Clerks have been observing BMWE picket lines. The two unions said this action was taken after members received registered letters from Guilford saying if they were not back on the job their seniority would be closed out and they would be terminated. The congressional delegation from Maine asked President Reagan to appoint an emergency board to help bring a settlement to the labor dispute. The BMWE had set up pickets at several railroads the union alleged were assisting Guilford in the strike but those railroads obtained restraining orders or permanent injunctions against the union action.

Rail Car Supply. Thus far in 1986, grain carloadings total 352,265 cars, an average of 22,017 cars per week. The 1986 figures are 6.7 percent below 1985 and 20.6 percent below the same period of 1984. Granger Railroads have reported a surplus average of 12,140 jumbo hoppers per day.

River Situation. At Locks & Dam 26, during the previous 24 hours, 17 tows with 178 barges have passed upbound and 10 tows with 95 barges downbound. This morning there are 6 tows waiting upbound and 1 downbound. At the Gulf on Thuraday, 964 barges were waiting to unload grains, oilseeds, and products. The total empty barges on hand was 1,014. At the Gulf, in the New Orleans/Baton Rouge area last Friday, 7 vessels were reported loading grain, while 8 waited. In the Columbia River Basin, also on Friday, 4 vessels were at berth being loaded, while 4 waited.

A 108.12:

U.S. CORN SHIPMENTS AND SALES
ANNUAL MONTHLY AVERAGES FOR FY 1982 - 1986(PROJ)
AND MONTHLY FROM MARCH 1984 - MARCH 1985



U.S. CORN and SORGHUM EXPORT COMMITMENTS to MAJOR DESTINATIONS
(OCTOBER/SEPTEMBER — 1,000 TONS) 1/

Destination:	1982/83 Total Exports	1983/84 Total Exports	1984/85 Total Exports	1984/85 Committed as of 3/21/85	1985/86 Committed as of 3/20/86
— CORN —					
EC-12	9,019	7,952	6,061	3,244	2,659
Other W. Europe	169	245	176	155	23
Eastern Europe	1,470	727	693	503	853
USSR	3,200	6,500	15,750	14,266	6,089
China	2,161	18	0	0	0
Japan	13,180	13,781	11,095	8,605	7,181
Taiwan	3,000	2,676	3,134	2,248	1,915
Rep. of Korea .	3,908	2,972	87	483	858
Egypt	1,516	1,303	1,352	810	1,036
Canada	758	283	316	125	17
Mexico	4,091	2,808	1,297	1,082	1,273
Venezuela	892	1,140	638	485	0
Others	3,938	6,992	5,361	4,274	3,240
TOTAL	47,294	47,397	45,960	36,200	25,144
— SORGHUM —					
Spain	185	465	45	45	0
Other W. Europe (excl. Spain)	251	136	79	66	38
Japan	741	1,585	2,726	2,071	2,128
Israel	341	574	587	488	317
Mexico	3,260	2,758	1,958	1,591	47
Venezuela	243	206	1,093	373	218
Others	462	582	588	591	187
TOTAL	5,483	6,226	6,996	5,216	2,934

1/ Accumulated shipments and sales, excluding sales for next marketing year

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Census and U.S. Export Sales.

Grain Transportation Situation

United States Department of Agriculture
Office of Transportation
Washington, D.C. 20250

GRAIN TRANSPORTATION

WEEK ENDED	1986	COMPARABLE WEEK 1985
RAIL CARLOADINGS		
Mar 29	18,073	22,349
Apr 5	19,213	20,577
Apr 12	17,725	21,070
Apr 19	17,902	20,176
Calendar Year to Date	352,265	375,802
BARGE LOADINGS (1,000 Bushels)		
Mar 30	N/A	51,114
Apr 6	N/A	34,714
Apr 13	N/A	39,172
Apr 20	N/A	34,273
Calendar Year to Date	293,910	546,084
INSPECTIONS FOR EXPORT (1,000 Bushels)		
Mar 27	66,292	75,306
Apr 3	39,102	73,250
Apr 10	55,938	75,993
Apr 17	41,825	78,588
Calendar Year to Date	1,005,634	1,246,516

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AVERAGE GRAIN PRICES ($ Per Bushel)

	WHEAT	CORN 1/	SOYBEANS 2/	WHEAT	CORN 1/	SOYBEANS 2/
Mar 14	3.34	2.44	5.39	3.65	2.85	5.87
Mar 21	3.38	2.47	5.38	3.66	2.86	6.01
Mar 28	3.37	2.49	5.35	3.64	2.87	6.04
Apr 4	3.40	2.50	5.35	3.70	2.91	6.02
Apr 11	3.46	2.46	5.26	3.61	2.91	6.06

(Wheat-#1 HRW - ORD., Kansas City; Corn #2 Yellow, Chicago; SB-#1 Yellow, Chicago)

1/ Bought to arrive 15 days.
2/ Bought to arrive 30 days.

MAJOR EXPORT SALES*
(1,000 Metric Tons)

WEEK ENDED		1986			1985		
		WHEAT	CORN	SOYBEANS	WHEAT	CORN	SOYBEANS
Mar	20	4,469	3,105	3,762	3,878	8,375	2,374
Mar	27	4,400	2,796	3,337	3,794	8,354	2,307
Apr	3	4,456	2,598	3,257	3,665	8,167	2,179
Apr	10	4,422	2,467	3,020	3,370	7,937	1,960
Apr	17	4,425	2,326	3,070	3,501	6,854	1,869

*Unshipped Balances-Current & Next Marketing Year

GULF COAST OCEAN GRAIN VESSELS

		IN PORT	LOADED 7 DAYS	DUE NEXT 10 DAYS	IN PORT	LOADED 7 DAYS	DUE NEXT 10 DAYS
Mar	28	30	44	40	37	54	67
Apr	4	29	35	37	39	40	76
Apr	11	26	37	41	33	50	78
Apr	18	27	40	33	25	50	69
Apr	25	32	30	39	24	46	71

BOX AND COVERED HOPPER CAR OWNERSHIP
(1,000 Cars)

		RAILROADS		PRIVATE	RAILROADS		PRIVATE
		40'ND BOX	COVERED HOPPER**	COVERED HOPPER**	40'ND BOX	COVERED HOPPER**	COVERED HOPPER**
Dec	1	4.4	123.8	115.5	7.2	123.3	114.2
Jan	1	4.3	123.5	115.5	6.8	123.5	114.7
Feb	1	4.3	123.5	115.4	6.3	123.1	114.9
Mar	1	4.2	122.8	114.6	6.0	123.3	114.5
Apr	1	4.0	122.6	113.1	5.6	123.4	115.2

**Jumbo Covered Hoppers Only

OCEAN FREIGHT RATES*
(Dollars/Ton - Basis Vessel Size/Ton)

U.S. Loading Port	Destination	Estimated Freight Rates	Dates of Movement
Gulf	Japan	$18.50-$7.25(19M-52M)	Apr-May
Gulf	Rotterdam/Antwerp Hamburg	$6.25-$6.00(35M-73.5M)	Apr-May
Pacific Northwest	Philippines	$13.75-$13.65(25M)	April
Great Lakes	Algeria	$20.00-$19.45(15M-18.7M)	Apr-May
Great Lakes	Rotterdam/Antwerp Hamburg	$17.50-$13.00(18M-25M)	April
Gulf	Mexico (EC)	$6.00-$5.00(20M-22M)	April
Great Lakes	Mexico	$27.00(14M)	Apr-May
Gulf	Algeria	$15.00-$13.50(15M-18.7M)	April
Pacific Northwest	Japan	$12.65-$12.00(20M)	April
Great Lakes	Japan	$21.15-$20.75(17M-25M) Top-Off $14.00-$13.75	May

*These ocean fixtures are based on full ship charters.

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This report is prepared by Bill Dunton & Martha Bearer, Traffic Management Specialists, Domestic Division, Office of Transportation, 202/447-6793.

996/18

Grain Transportation Situation

United States Department of Agriculture

Office of Transportation

Washington, D.C. 20250

May 5, 1986

Grain Market Reacts to Soviet Disaster. The Soviet nuclear power plant disaster last week has caused the futures price for grains to fluctuate as word spreads on Soviet crop conditions. Speculation that radioactive contamination could be settling on important farming regions in concentrations strong enough to sicken livestock, render crops too dangerous to consume, and pollute waterways is causing the world grain market to change from day to day. All these factors could lead the Soviet Union to increase their import of grains from the United States.

Guilford Rail Strike. The United Transportation Union (UTU), the Brotherhood of Railway and Airline Clerks (BRAC) and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers (BLE) have withdrawn their pickets from Guilford Industries Terminal (GTI) facilities. The three unions were honoring picket lines of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees (BMWE) strike of GTI, after a Federal judge issued a temporary restraining order removing their reason for calling a legal strike. The reason for the strike call was a registered letter sent to members of the UTU, BRAC, and BLE stating that unless they returned to work by close of business, April 25 their seniority and jobs would be terminated. A union attorney said this action by the judge blocking GTI's move to strip seniority rights, removed our reason for calling a legal strike. The union withdrew their pickets but continue to respect the BMWE strike.

Competitive Access Rules. The Baltimore Gas & Electric Co. (BG&E) has filed a joint brief with the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia on the Interstate Commerce Commission's (ICC) new rules governing competitive access disputes. Last fall, the Commission adopted an agreement worked out by the Association of American Railroads, the National Industrial Transportation League, and the Chemical Manufacturers Association on how the ICC could improve its handling of competitive access complaints. Joining BG&E in the appeal are the Pittsburgh & Lake Erie Railroad; PPG Industries, the Southern Transportation League, and the Eastern Industrial Traffic League. The BG&E has asked the Court to vacate the decision and remand it back to the ICC. The utility company said that the adopted rules were approved merely because it was a rail industry-shipper agreement and didn't take into consideration other comments or proposals.

ACBL Appeal Set. The Water Transport Association along with 13 barge lines will appeal to the Supreme Court the ICC's approval of CSX Corporations acquisition of American Commercial Barge Lines (ACBL). Waterway interests made their decision to appeal after a full appeals court affirmed a three-judge panel's decision upholding the ICC's approval. The barge interests have until June 27 to submit their appeal to the Supreme Court.

River Situation. At Locks & Dam 26, during the previous 24 hours, 18 tows with 195 barges have passed upbound and 9 tows with 65 barges downbound. This morning there are 6 tows waiting upbound and 1 downbound. At the Gulf on Thursday, 941 barges were waiting to unload grains, oilseeds, and products. The total empty barges on hand was 1,104. At the Gulf, in the New Orleans/Baton Rouge area last Friday, 7 vessels were reported loading grain, while 8 waited. In the Columbia River Basin, also on Friday, 4 vessels were at berth being loaded, while 4 waited.

A 108.12:

CORN - STOCKS BY POSITIONS, BY STATES, APRIL 1, 1985-86

STATE	ON FARMS	OFF FARMS 1/	TOTAL ALL POSITIONS	ON FARMS	OFF FARMS 1/	TOTAL ALL POSITIONS
	1985			1986		
	1,000 BUSHELS					
ALA	3,253	2,738	5,991	*	2,706	*
ARIZ	98	434	532	*	366	*
ARK	279	1,071	1,350	*	277	*
CALIF	7,140	6,687	13,827	*	3,767	*
COLO	30,981	10,540	41,521	39,351	14,105	53,456
DEL	2,882	*	*	*	5,420	*
FLA	1,229	325	1,554	*	380	*
GA	12,923	4,455	17,378	*	8,858	*
IDAHO	1,947	334	2,281	*	291	*
ILL	349,205	224,235	573,440	613,980	456,600	1,070,580
IND	183,433	79,182	262,615	279,887	137,872	417,759
IOWA	693,504	244,028	937,532	956,088	489,676	1,445,764
KANS	20,294	21,099	41,393	25,272	30,298	55,570
KY	39,420	9,287	48,707	49,327	17,209	66,536
LA	472	7,552	8,024	*	6,384	*
MD	13,924	13,374	27,298	*	14,470	*
MICH	88,032	24,932	112,964	120,393	49,122	169,515
MINN	365,212	76,340	441,552	507,150	117,134	624,284
MISS	833	2,124	2,957	*	2,216	*
MO	41,688	18,843	60,531	92,752	41,604	134,356
MONT	345	*	*	*	60	*
NEBR	386,976	157,761	544,737	514,944	255,832	770,776
NEV		*	*		*	*
N ENG		866	866		624	624
N J	2,682	117	2,799	*	219	*
N MEX	965	*	*	*	*	*
N Y	33,534	*	*	*	*	*
N C	30,618	16,621	47,239	29,526	20,371	49,897
N DAK	22,869	3,900	26,769	34,675	5,700	40,375
OHIO	110,448	73,550	183,998	168,897	115,271	284,168
OKLA	683	608	1,291	*	445	*
OREG	668	488	1,156	*	173	*
PA	77,220	7,345	84,565	75,900	5,130	81,030
S C	4,533	2,663	7,196	*	5,665	*
S DAK	89,405	10,497	99,902	118,440	15,865	134,305
TENN	22,287	5,047	27,334	*	8,152	*
TEX	5,045	50,863	55,908	9,387	69,770	79,157
UTAH	359	384	743	*	275	*
VA	16,286	5,862	22,148	*	5,535	*
WASH	2,093	5,422	7,515	*	4,712	*
W VA	3,321	*	*	*	*	*
WIS	165,360	26,014	191,374	193,563	43,537	237,100
WYO	1,380	71	1,451	*	102	*
UNALL*		16,077	57,104	150,354	9,193	230,020
U S	2,833,806	1,131,736	3,965,542	3,979,886	1,965,386	5,945,272

* INCLUDED IN UNALLOCATED "OFF FARMS" TO AVOID DISCLOSURE OF INDIVIDUAL OPERATIONS; IN UNALLOCATED "ON FARMS", MINOR STATES NOT PUBLISHED SEPARATELY ARE INCLUDED.

1/ INCLUDES STOCKS AT MILLS, ELEVATORS, WAREHOUSES, TERMINALS, AND PROCESSORS.

Grain Transportation Situation

United States Department of Agriculture
Office of Transportation
Washington, D.C. 20250

GRAIN TRANSPORTATION

WEEK ENDED	1986	COMPARABLE WEEK 1985
RAIL CARLOADINGS		
Apr 5	19,213	20,577
Apr 12	17,725	21,070
Apr 19	17,902	20,176
Apr 26	17,001	18,732
Calendar Year to Date	369,266	394,534
BARGE LOADINGS (1,000 Bushels)		
Apr 6	N/A	34,714
Apr 13	N/A	39,172
Apr 20	N/A	34,273
Apr 27	N/A	29,516
Calendar Year to Date	293,910	575,600
INSPECTIONS FOR EXPORT (1,000 Bushels)		
Apr 3	39,102	73,250
Apr 10	55,938	75,993
Apr 17	41,825	78,588
Apr 24	35,222	81,035
Calendar Year to Date	1,040,856	1,327,551

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AVERAGE GRAIN PRICES ($ Per Bushel)

	1986			1985		
	WHEAT	CORN 1/	SOYBEANS 2/	WHEAT	CORN 1/	SOYBEANS 2/
Mar 21	3.38	2.47	5.38	3.66	2.86	6.01
Mar 28	3.37	2.49	5.35	3.64	2.87	6.04
Apr 4	3.40	2.50	5.35	3.70	2.91	6.02
Apr 11	3.46	2.46	5.26	3.61	2.91	6.06
Apr 18	3.33	2.45	5.25	3.54	2.91	5.97

(Wheat-#1 HRW - ORD., Kansas City; Corn #2 Yellow, Chicago; SB-#1 Yellow, Chicago)

1/ Bought to arrive 15 days.
2/ Bought to arrive 30 days.

MAJOR EXPORT SALES*
(1,000 Metric Tons)

WEEK ENDED		1986			1985		
		WHEAT	CORN	SOYBEANS	WHEAT	CORN	SOYBEANS
Mar	27	4,400	2,796	3,337	3,794	8,354	2,307
Apr	3	4,456	2,598	3,257	3,665	8,167	2,179
Apr	10	4,422	2,467	3,020	3,370	7,937	1,960
Apr	17	4,425	2,326	3,070	3,501	6,854	1,869
Apr	24	4,557	2,596	2,815	3,574	6,757	1,755

*Unshipped Balances-Current & Next Marketing Year

GULF COAST OCEAN GRAIN VESSELS

		IN PORT	LOADED 7 DAYS	DUE NEXT 10 DAYS	IN PORT	LOADED 7 DAYS	DUE NEXT 10 DAYS
Apr	4	29	35	37	39	40	76
Apr	11	26	37	41	33	50	78
Apr	18	27	40	33	25	50	69
Apr	25	32	30	39	24	46	71
May	2	31	30	31	25	46	55

BOX AND COVERED HOPPER CAR OWNERSHIP
(1,000 Cars)

		RAILROADS 40'ND BOX	RAILROADS COVERED HOPPER**	PRIVATE COVERED HOPPER**	RAILROADS 40'ND BOX	RAILROADS COVERED HOPPER**	PRIVATE COVERED HOPPER**
Dec	1	4.4	123.8	115.5	7.2	123.3	114.2
Jan	1	4.3	123.5	115.5	6.8	123.5	114.7
Feb	1	4.3	123.5	115.4	6.3	123.1	114.9
Mar	1	4.2	122.8	114.6	6.0	123.3	114.5
Apr	1	4.0	122.6	113.1	5.6	123.4	115.2

**Jumbo Covered Hoppers Only

OCEAN FREIGHT RATES*
(Dollars/Ton - Basis Vessel Size/Ton)

U.S. Loading Port	Destination	Estimated Freight Rates	Dates of Movement
Gulf	Japan	$18.50-$8.50(19M-52M)	May
Gulf	Rotterdam/Antwerp Hamburg	$6.50(37M)	May
Pacific Northwest	Philippines	$13.05(25M)	May-Jun
Great Lakes	Algeria	$25.00-$20.00(15M-18M)	May
Great Lakes	Rotterdam/Antwerp Hamburg	$13.00-$12.50(17M-19.7M)	May
Great Lakes	Japan	$21.15-$20.75(17M-25M) Top-Off $14.00-$13.75	May
Gulf	Venezuela	$8.25-$6.50(16.4M-25.6M)	May
Gulf	Taiwan	$18.25-$12.50(30M-33M)	May

*These ocean fixtures are based on full ship charters.

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